

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 36, line 29 with the following paragraph.

--(SBU) is a synthetic binding unit as described above,[[,]] preferably a pRNA, pDNA or CNA or a modified form thereof. Preferably,[[,]] and the synthetic binding unit is linked to X preferably via a 2' or 4' carbon (or the equivalent carbon of the cyclohexyl CAN moiety) of one of the terminal monomers. However, linkage through a nitrogen heterocycle moiety, such as through a tryptamine linker, is also within the present invention. See Figure 1. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 5 with the following paragraph.

-- The SBUs and NAs for use in the third and fourth aspects of the invention may be any of those described herein. Preferred SBUs include pRNA, pDNA, and cyclohexyl nucleic acid (CNA). Preferred NAs include DNA, RNA, and their chemically modified derivatives. Labeled embodiments are also preferred. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 29 with the following paragraph.

-- Particularly preferred monomeric units which can be utilized for the synthesis of synthetic binding systems in accordance with this invention are, for example, pRNAs, pDNAs or CNAs. Such building blocks are described, for example, in WO 98/25943, *Helv. Chim. Acta* 1993, 76, 2161-2183, *Helv. Chim. Acta* 1995, 78, 1621-1635, *Helv. Chim. Acta* 1996, 79, 2316-2345, *Helv. Chim. Acta*, 1997, 80, 1901-1951, WO 99/15539 ("pRNA"), WO 99/15509 (cyclohexyl nucleic acid or "CNA") and by Beier, M.; et al.; *Science* 283, 699-703 (1999). The useful characteristics of these molecules are also generally applicable to largely analogous structures having, e.g., a different linkage moiety besides phosphate between the sugar residues of the backbone, or other minor alterations. It is interesting to note that SBUs and SAUs using these types of monomeric units may

be made up of different classes of monomers, so long as the specific recognition is maintained.

Heterologous binding systems which are preferred here are pRNA / pDNA, pRNA / CNA or pDNA / CNA. However, it is still more preferred that the SBU and SAU utilize the same class of monomers.

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